

KIDS MINISTRY GUIDE | WEEK OF APRIL 5 | BIRTH - GRADE 5

Unit 20: Session 1 | Jesus' Baptism¹

Bible Passage: Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1

Story Point: Jesus obeyed God by being baptized.

Key Passage: John 3:30

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

Teaching Video: Maggiei has put together a resource for you if you would prefer to watch a teaching video. It can also be used along with the curriculum below.

Worship: We encourage you to spend time worshiping together as a family.

[Here is a playlist of songs we sing regularly on Sunday mornings in Kids Ministry!](#)

Teach the Story (10 minutes)

Read the Bible story out loud; feel free to read only the bolded words for babies/toddlers.

John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. His clothes were made out of camel's hair and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. **John began telling people, "Repent and be baptized because God's kingdom is almost here."**

Some people asked John, "Who are you?" John said, "I am not the Messiah." John also said he wasn't Elijah and he wasn't the Prophet that God had promised to send after Moses. "Who are you, then?" they asked.

Long before John was born, the prophet Isaiah said, "Someone is shouting in the wilderness. He says, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make His paths straight!'" Isaiah was talking about John. **John** had a very important job. He **was supposed to get people ready for Jesus - God's promised Messiah.**

People started to repent; they turned away from their sins and turned to God for forgiveness. Then John baptized them in the Jordan River. Baptism was a picture that the people's sins had been washed away.

John preached, "Someone greater than me is coming. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

By this time, Jesus was an adult. He went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Here is Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

¹ From The Gospel Project for Kids, Younger Kids Leader Guide, Vol. 7, pgs. 84-97.

Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized. But John didn't think he should baptize Jesus. "I need You to baptize me," John said. "Why do you want me to baptize You?" John was confused. He baptized people who confessed their sins; Jesus never sinned!

Jesus said, "Allow Me to be baptized. God says this is right." So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.

Jesus immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens opened and Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and am very pleased with Him!"

Apply the Story (10 minutes)

ASK

Ask the following questions and lead kids to discuss. Questions go from easier to more difficult. If the answer in italics includes a Bible verse, help kids find the answer in the Bible.

Q. Does baptism save us?

A. *Guide the kids to understand that baptism is important, but it is only a symbol of what Jesus has done for us. A person is baptized because she is saved, not in order to be saved.*

Q. Why is baptism important?

A. *Help kids understand that God has commanded believers to be baptized, and Jesus provided an example for us to follow. Baptism is a beautiful picture of our sinful lives dying with Jesus and our new life beginning when we are "raised" from the water. It shows the world we trust Jesus and identify with Him.)*

Q. When should someone be baptized?

A. *Remind your kids that baptism is a way to show they have trusted Christ; anyone who has not trusted Christ should not be baptized. Discuss with your children if or when they should be baptized.*

Christ Connection: The Christ Connection is a summary statement of how this particular story relates to the gospel and God's big plan for salvation! Use this as a good 'landing spot' for concluding conversation.

TEACH

Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life - a life lived for Jesus.

Do an Activity (10 minutes)

ACTIVITY

Paper dove-planes: Provide each kid with a sheet of paper. Challenge the kids to make paper airplanes that will stand in for doves. The goal for each kid is to make an airplane that takes the longest to "float" to the ground.

TEACH

(Read aloud) Great job on those paper planes! Just like those planes floated down onto the ground, so the Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove onto Jesus!

Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray together to close, taking prayer requests if desired. If time remains, distribute paper to each child and ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following:

1. What does this story teach me about God?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?